

Historic Cemetery Committee Minutes  
February 22, 2006

Members present: Shelly Merriam, Roy Henry, Mary Brundage, Sheryl Romasco, Jill Kenrick and Beth Butler

Absent: Doris Ostroskey

Guest: Jim Dwyer

Motion made to accept the minutes of the January 17, 2006 meeting by Beth Butler and seconded by Roy Henry. Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

1. Jim Dwyer, Chairman of the By-Law Review Committee, came to hear the concerns of the Historic Cemetery Committee regarding both gravel operations and residential growth encroaching on the perimeters of the Historic Cemeteries in town.

The HCC would like some by law changes or additions to better protect the cemeteries. Jim suggested the Earth Removal By-law might offer some protections and help. A cemetery, a single headstone, or a cellar hole can be considered a structure according to the by-laws.

2. Gideon Mowry Cemetery

The present owner of the property abutting the cemetery, Jerry Lemire, has torn down a 1-story cottage and is applying to put a 2 story house on the same footprint. The Zoning Board of Appeals will grant the permit with the conditions that there is a four (4) foot buffer that is kept "free of obstruction" around the cemetery. Mr Lemire has also committed to assisting with tree and brush removal in and around the cemetery.

3. Donation

The HCC received \$500.00 from the Uxbridge Woman's Club to help with the Historic Cemetery Project. The money will be deposited in the Cemetery Gift Account and used to help pay for the survey work of Lyn Lovell. Shelly and Jill will do a photo shoot at the Albee Cemetery with Angie Keeler, President of the Uxbridge Woman's Club on Saturday, February 25, 2006.

4. Community Service Hours

The HCC will provide a citizen in need of Community Service Hours will work putting in cemetery signs in the spring.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mountain View Estates

Mark Anderson provided Shelly with a map that shows a 15 foot wide deeded access path to the Holbrook Cemetery along a property line. The HCC has the following concerns:

1. We would like an easement of 15 feet on all three sides that are being developed as Mountain View Estates. The Committee needs to be able to get around the cemetery for maintenance of the wall.

2. The shape of the cemetery seems to be off on the map and the gate appears to be in the wrong spot. Also, there is a stone wall that goes completely around the cemetery and is not shown on the map.

3. The slope on the north side of the cemetery is steep - with a drop off. More than 15 feet might be required.

4. The septic system on lot 1 is too close to the cemetery.

5. Will there be sidewalks on the street?

6. Will there be street parking available for maintenance vehicles?

2. Joseph Richardson Cemetery/Unnamed Cemetery off King Street

Sheryl Romasco and Jill Kenrick have found some information from an old deed about "burying places". Sheryl will contact Steve Gioioso and see if his company will lay out the measurements and see if the deed includes the unnamed cemetery

3. Buxton Cemetery

BJ's is putting in the retaining wall on the south side. Everything seems to be proceeding smoothly.

4. Norden Cemetery

Mary Brundage has typed the list of people buried in the cemetery and their relatives and formatted it for our records and to use for future reference.

Shelly will meet with Dick Buma, representing Buma Funeral Home, a member of the Board of Health and Harry Romasco from the Board of Selectmen to discuss future burials in this cemetery. The HCC has not been able to get access to the records of the layout of the cemetery. One avenue to pursue might be to ask for the use of Town Counsel to demand the records from Laurie Berthillette of Millville.

5. Soap Sales

The HCC made \$121.00 on the sale of headstone shaped scented soaps.

6. St. Mary's Cemetery

St Mary's Cemetery book has been completed. One copy is in the Town Clerk's Office

7. Shelly will ask Dennis Dorr to our next meeting to discuss the Cook and Darling Cemeteries.

8. Dave Moriarty would like to include the HCC on his cable television show - Uxbridge- My Kind of Town.

9. Date for next meeting was set for Tuesday, March 21, 2006 at the Uxbridge Police Station.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Motion made by Jill Kenrick. Second by Roy Henry Unanimous.